

The Working of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:1-5 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

John 1:32-34 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

John 16:7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

2 Corinthians 3:5-11 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

John 14:15-20 If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

- I. So it is very obvious from the Scriptures that there is something more than most people ever experience in their religion.

- A. It is very clear that Jesus promised to do more for his people here and now, in this present world, in this earthly life than most who profess to know Him ever experience.
- B. There is more to salvation here and now than simply a profession of faith, or a “decision” to “accept” Christ as your Savior, and then continue as you were.
- C. There is more to being born again than knowledge and understanding of the Bible.
- D. There is more to being saved than simply being “on your way to heaven.”
- E. There is more to being regenerated than learning, growing in grace, doing good works, and being faithful in going to church and giving.
- F. There is more to being a Christian than being a witness with our mouths and our actions.
- G. It is a spiritual birth that brings spiritual life, not a rebirth of the old natural man just made better.
- H. “If any man be in Christ he is a new creature...” means that he is a new spiritual creature, not a new intellectual, fleshly, more worldly-wise kind of creature.
- I. We are translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

[Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:](#)

- 1. “Translated means to be conveyed from one place to another.
- 2. Our life is not changed; we are crucified with Christ and given new life, which is based in the spiritual realm instead of the earthly, fleshly realm.
- J. But we find ourselves still present in this earthly, physical realm where evil is ever present and Satan is the prince and power of the air we breathe.
- K. Thus, the conflict that every child of God experiences from the time he is born again.
 - 1. The constant assault upon our minds of evil, trying to deceive us and lead us into the snare of the devil where our life would be ruined, and our influence would poison the minds of others and doom them to ruin also.
- L. Jesus knew what we would be up against and He made these promises to us about sending the Comforter, his Holy Spirit to live within us, to guide us and lead us into all truth and to glorify Him in our souls.

II. What is the Spirit’s working in us?

- A. It is what happens in us as we yield our heart, mind, and body to God in pursuit of the truth.
- B. It is not from learning, growing in grace, or obedience to commands as a matter of duty or habit.
 - 1. Certainly, learning is a part of the Christian life, because he gave some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers for that purpose.
 - 2. Certainly, growing in grace is something that the Scripture teaches, commands, encourages, and provides for.
 - 3. But we can learn and grow in knowledge and even understanding the ways of God and not be filled with and led by the Spirit of God.
- C. It is a sad fact, but most professing Christians of all ages have fallen short in this matter.
- D. There have been many errors because of the fact that the words of Jesus and all the Scriptures plainly point to something more than most people ever see or experience with God in this life.
 - 1. A second work of grace; namely the eradication of the sinful nature and entire sanctification.
 - 2. Speaking in tongues, which has become synonymous with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which it is not.

3. All kinds of other things, such as miracles and healing which are supposed to be manifestations of the Holy Spirit, which the Bible never indicates are evidence of the Spirit's working.
 4. All of these errors are based upon looking for signs and wonders as confirmation of faith, or the presence of the Spirit of God.
 5. This puts it all in the category of superstitious leanings, which are lies and suggestions from evil spirits, not the Holy Spirit.
- E. The working of the Spirit of God in us is something that happens that we cannot explain or put our finger on.
1. It is changes in our understanding, attitudes, desires, and affections that are not a product of our own reasoning, or the desire to be accepted by others.
 2. We just suddenly realize that there has been a change in our very soul that has affected our whole being, and that it is permanent.
 3. It always happens in response to our response to divine truth as it is revealed to our mind.
 4. If we yield to the truth revealed the Holy Spirit of God manifests himself to us in our inward man with joy, gladness, peace, and love toward God and other people.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- F. This is the baptism of the Holy Ghost
1. It is something that happens immediately upon the new birth, but continues throughout the rest of our earthly life.
 2. Because the day of Pentecost was such a spectacular manifestation of the Spirit of God most people have always looked for something like that in the Christian life; and there is something spectacular that happens, but it is in our soul, not a public display.
 3. The working of the Spirit is a very personal and private thing between the LORD and his child, not meant for public viewing, but for edification, assurance and simply just the love of God manifested to his trusting, believing child.

- III. The working of the Spirit of God in the believer is a progressive work, as well.
- A. As we look at the opposite side and the way people come under the influence of evil spirits until they become possessed by them, we can see that there is a similarity to how people are brought under the influence of the Holy Spirit of God until they are filled and led by his Spirit.
 - B. As people give the ear of their mind to spiritual evil it is not noticeable at first, because it is something that is going on in their mind and heart.
 1. But as they yield to the suggestions, the lies, the enticements of evil they wind up full of the devil himself, with a deep hatred for God, his people, and everything that is right or holy.
 - C. Praise the Lord, the opposite is also true.

Mark 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;